

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraphs ¶¶67-69, 77-80 of the specification as follows:

[67] In another aspect of the invention, in a case where there may be a link failure within a particular trunk group, port switching may be used to decommission one or more failed ports and to commission one or more new switch ports to handle at least a portion of the traffic capacity previously handled by the failed port. A link failure is detected by the IEEE 802.3 Link Integrity Test, IEEE 802.3af Power over MDI power status, configuration change via network management, or other means that prevents communication. Port switching may be adapted to occur dynamically or manually. For example, in a case where some of the links on trunk group 1066b have failed, the failed ports on switch 606 servicing those links may be decommissioned. Additional ports may be provisioned to provide adequate coverage for access points 614, 616 and 618. In certain instances, it may be necessary to take underutilized and/or unutilized ports previously provisioned for trunk group 606c and re-provision them to provide additional capacity. In a case where there may be insufficient ports available, any underutilized and/or unutilized ports previously provisioned for trunk group 622 606a may be re-provisioned to provide additional capacity. In an alternative embodiment of the invention, a reserved pool of spare ports may be maintained and available spare ports may be provisioned to compensate for the failed links. Where the provisioned spare ports are no longer needed, they may be de-allocated and returned to the reserved pool of spare ports.

[68] FIG. 7 is a block diagram 700 illustrating access point aggregation and resiliency in the WLAN of FIG. 6 in accordance with an embodiment of the

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invention. Referring to FIG. 7, there is shown a local area network switch 716 having switching elements 702, 722, 742. Switching element ~~604~~ 702 may be coupled to trunk 704, which may provide connectivity to access points 706, 708 and 710. Switching element 722 may be coupled to trunk 724, which may provide connectivity to access points 726, 728 and 730. Switching element 742 may be coupled to trunk group ~~744~~ 762 providing connectivity to access points 746 and 748. Access points 706, 708, 710 may be aggregated to form a group, namely group 712. Access points 726, 728, 730 may be aggregated to form a group, namely group 732. Finally, access points 746 and 748 may be aggregated to form a group, namely group 750. Accordingly, groups 712, 732 and 750 may be served by switch 716.

[69] In operation, trunk 704 may be a default trunk that provides service for access points 706, 708 and 710, and trunk 724 may be a default trunk that provides service for access points 730, 728, and 726. Finally, trunk ~~752~~ 762 may be a default trunk that provides service for access points 746 and 748. If any one or more of the access points in group 712 requires additional capacity, then one or more available ports of switching element 722 may be provisioned to provide service to group 712. Accordingly, trunk group 744 may provide the additional capacity required by group 712. Similarly, if any one or more of the access points in group 732 requires additional capacity, then one or more ports of switching element 742 may be provisioned to provide service to group 732. Accordingly, trunk group 768 may provide the additional capacity required by group 732.

[77] United States Patent Application Serial No. 10/658,410 (~~Attorney Docket No. 141178US02~~) entitled “Method and System for Providing an Intelligent Switch in a Hybrid Wired/Wireless Local Area Network” filed on September 9, 2003,

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discloses a switch that may utilize the messaging protocol in accordance with an embodiment of the invention, and is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. The switch disclosed therein may be adapted to utilize the messaging protocol to provide access point aggregation and resiliency in accordance with an embodiment of the invention.

[78] United States Patent Application Serial No. 10/658,514 (~~Attorney Docket No. 14179US02~~) entitled “Method and System for Network Management in a Hybrid Wired/Wireless Local Area Network” filed on September 9, 2003, discloses a switch that may utilize the messaging protocol for network management in accordance with an embodiment of the invention, and is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. The method and system disclosed therein may be adapted to utilize the messaging protocol to provide access point aggregation and resiliency in accordance with an embodiment of the invention.

[79] United States Patent Application Serial No. 10/658,725 (~~Attorney Docket No. 14180US02~~) entitled “Method and System for Providing and Intelligent Switch for Bandwidth Management in a Hybrid Wired/Wireless Local Area Network” filed on September 9, 2003, discloses a switch that may utilize the messaging protocol for bandwidth management in accordance with an embodiment of the invention, and is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. The method and system disclosed therein may be adapted to utilize the messaging protocol to provide access point aggregation and resiliency in accordance with an embodiment of the invention.

[80] United States Patent Application Serial No. 10/658,734 (~~Attorney Docket No. 14183US02~~) entitled “Method and System for Providing Optimal Load Balancing in a Hybrid Wired/Wireless Local Area Network” filed on September 9,

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2003, discloses a switch that may utilize the messaging protocol for optimal load balancing in accordance with an embodiment of the invention, and is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. The method and system disclosed therein may be adapted to utilize the messaging protocol to provide access point aggregation and resiliency in accordance with an embodiment of the invention.